

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An adjustable mattress comprising:
 - a first section and a second section overlying a common rigid planar platform, with respective upper surfaces of the first section and the second section moveable relative to each other and together forming at least a portion of a sleeping surface of the adjustable mattress;
 - a first mechanical drive unit within the adjustable mattress, the first mechanical drive unit connected between the platform and at least one of the first section and the second section and providing a mechanical force to move the upper surface of the first section relative to the upper surface of the second section; and
 - a flexible sheet comprising a first sheet member coextensive with the first section and a second sheet member coextensive with the second section and disposed between the first mechanical drive unit and bottom surfaces of the first and second sections, said flexible sheet being continuous in a longitudinal direction of the mattress at least across one of the first and second sections,
wherein the first sheet member is attached to the second sheet member by an articulated hinge and a force of the first mechanical drive unit is distributed across a region of the first section by the first sheet member associated with that section.
2. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, further comprising one or more additional sections, each additional section forming a portion of the sleeping surface of the adjustable mattress, and an upper surface of each additional section moveable relative to at least one of the upper surfaces of the first section, the second section, or another one of the one or more additional sections.
3. (Previously Presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 2, further comprising a second mechanical drive unit within the adjustable mattress and connected to a least one of the additional sections to provide mechanical force to move an upper surface of the at least one additional section relative to the upper surface of the first section, the second section, or another one of the one or more additional sections.
4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising a mattress cover enclosing the first section, the second section, the first mechanical drive unit, and the flexible sheet.
6. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising one or more layers of padding beneath the sleeping surface.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising a foundation, at least one of the first section or the second section remaining stationary relative to the foundation.
9. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein each of the first section and the second section includes a mattress core adapted to receive the first mechanical drive unit.
10. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 9 wherein the mattress core of at least one of the first section and the second section includes at least one of a foam core, a liquid core, an air core, a plurality of open spring coils, or a plurality of pocket spring coils.
11. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 further comprising a controller adapted to activate the first mechanical drive unit to move the first section relative to the second section.
12. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller is wireless.
13. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller is programmable to recall one or more positions of the first section relative to the second section.
14. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller provides digital adjustment of the first section relative to the second section.

15. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 14 wherein the digital adjustment permits entry of a number characterizing the position of the first section relative to the second section.
16. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 11 wherein the controller provides continuous adjustment of the first section relative to the second section.
17. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 16 wherein the continuous adjustment includes at least one of a slider, a knob, or a dial.
18. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first mechanical drive unit includes a DC motor.
19. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first mechanical drive unit includes a worm gear.
20. (Original) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first mechanical drive unit includes one or more arms coupled to a DC motor.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the upper surface of at least one of the first section and the second section remains parallel with a ground surface.
24. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 1 wherein the first section is at least one of a head section of a mattress or a foot section of a mattress.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) An adjustable mattress comprising:

a first section and a second section overlying a common rigid planar platform, with respective upper surfaces of the first section and the second section moveable relative to each other and together forming a sleeping surface of the adjustable mattress;

a mechanical means within the adjustable mattress for moving the upper surface of the first section relative to the upper surface of the second section; and

a flexible mid-sheet comprising a first sheet member coextensive with the first section and a second sheet member coextensive with the second section and disposed between the mechanical means and the first and second sections, said flexible mid-sheet being continuous in a longitudinal direction of the mattress at least across one of the first and second sections,

wherein the first sheet member is attached to the second sheet member by an articulated hinge and a force of the mechanical means is distributed across a region of the first section by the first sheet member coextensive with that section.

28. (Previously presented) An articulated mattress having a flexible cover, comprising:

a base element forming a planar region parallel to a sleeping surface of said mattress;

a sleeping element comprising:

a first section and a second section with respective upper surfaces of the first section and the second section moveable relative to each other and together forming the sleeping surface of the mattress;

one or more mattress cores disposed on and above a flexible sheet, said flexible sheet comprises a first sheet member coextensive with the first section and a second sheet member coextensive with the second section, the first sheet member is attached to the second sheet member by an articulated hinge, and the flexible sheet is continuous in a longitudinal direction of the mattress at least across one of the first and second sections; and

articulation means fixedly attached to said base element, comprising a screw drive means fixedly mounted to said base element; and

linkage means coupled to said screw drive, whereby actuation of said screw drive causes said linkage to bear on said flexible sheet, thereby displacing said sheet;;

wherein the screw drive is distributed across a region of the corresponding one of the first and second sections by the first or second sheet member associated with that section, and

wherein said base element, said sleeping element, said articulation means, and said flexible sheet are located within said flexible cover.

29. (Original) The articulated mattress of claim 28, wherein said mattress overlaps a frame, said mattress further comprising one or more clamping means for attaching said mattress to said frame.

30. (Original) The articulated mattress of claim 28, wherein said articulation means further comprises a controller configured to effect said actuation.

31. (Original) The articulated mattress of claim 30 wherein said controller is a wireless controller.

Claims 32 - 52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 3, further comprising an additional sheet member disposed between the at least one additional section and the second mechanical drive unit.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, wherein the first and second sheet members are made of a continuous piece of plywood.

57. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, wherein the first and second sheet members are made of a continuous piece of plastic.

58. (Previously presented) The adjustable mattress of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet is sized to match the sleeping surface.

59. (Canceled)